

City of Manchester Fire Department

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Every year more than 4,000 Americans die in home fires. This equates to 12 people a day dying in their own homes. Tens of thousands more endure pain and suffering from unnecessary fire injuries. In order to bring attention to this tragedy, local Fire Departments' throughout the country take part in National Fire prevention Week. The first fire prevention week was declared in 1922 by President Warren G. Harding as a commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. This fire killed approximately 250 people, destroyed thousands of buildings and left 100,000 homeless.

This year Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 9th through Oct. 15th. The theme for this year's campaign is "Use Candles With Care". The emphasis of this campaign is to encourage people to use candles in a safe manner. Over the past decade, candle fires have more than tripled – from the 5,500 reported nationally in 1990 to an estimated 18,000 during 2001. In light of these statistics, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has chose "Use Candles With Care" as the 2005 Fire Prevention Week theme to encourage people to observe simple safety precautions when using candles.

The Manchester Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau and Manchester Fire Prevention Committee offer the following fire safety tips:

***Install Smoke Detectors.**

Smoke detectors should be installed in all sleeping areas. Smoke detectors should also be installed on all levels of the common areas of your home. Smoke detectors should be checked weekly. Remember, only a *working* smoke detector can protect you!

***Make an escape plan.**

When a fire occurs there's no time for planning. Sit down with your family and develop a plan for escaping in the event of a fire. These plans should include two escape routes out, a meeting place for the family to gather when everyone's out of the building, and the nearest phone to call the Fire Department.

***Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of small children.**

Matches and lighters are dangerous tools in the hands of small children. Children playing with matches and lighters every year cause a large majority of fires.

***Be fire safe in the kitchen.**

Keep appliances clean, don't leave cooking unattended, use extreme caution when cooking when children are present, and keep a fire extinguisher available for use in the event of a small fire.